



WAUKESHA COUNTY HEALTH COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WAUKESHA COUNTY HEALTH REPORT CARD RELEASED

WAUKESHA, Wis. – The Waukesha County Health Council released their 2009 Health Report Card today, which evaluates the overall health status of Waukesha County Residents based on 6 overlying categories.

The report states that overall, health of the county improved in two categories, decreased in two categories, and remained the same in two categories as compared to the previous Health Report Card in 2005. The grade for cancer went from a C to a C+ while heart disease/stroke saw major improvement going from a D+ to B-. However, maternal, child and infant health declined from an A to a B-, and risk factors/use of preventative services dropped from a B to a C+. The overall grade decreased slightly from the previous report card to a C+ compared to a B- in 2005.

Previous report cards were issued by the Health Council in 1997, 1998, 2002 and 2005. This fifth edition updates information on key community health status indicators for Waukesha County.

- Maternal, Child and Infant Health----B-
- Communicable Diseases----C-
- Cancer Rate----C+
- Heart Disease and Stroke----B-
- Injury, Violence and Substance Abuse----B
- Risk Factors/Use of Preventive Services----C+
- Overall Grade----C+

Factors that contributed to the C+ Overall Health Grade include an increase in child and infant mortality rates, a decrease in early prenatal care, higher incidents of vaccine preventable diseases such as Mumps and Pertussis, increasing cancer incidence rates and an increase in adult obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Health

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improvements were seen with significantly lower mortality rates for cancer, heart disease/stroke, a reduction in the number of smokers, and increased use of seat belts.

The report card will be used as a tool to assist in future health planning and programming. Past report cards have illuminated the need for current Waukesha County programs such as the Heart Healthy Waukesha and the Tobacco Free Coalition. Such programming may have been a factor in the improvement in heart health. Additional health initiatives created to help address other community concerns include:

- Waukesha County Dental Coalition
- Sexual Assault Victim Services
- Public Health 2008 Immunization Campaign
- Latino Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Initiative
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Project

Waukesha County's status as one of the fastest growing counties in the state of Wisconsin along with the aging of the population, increasing poverty and greater diversity within the population will all add increased challenges to the maintenance of good health in the 21st century.

Formed in 1995, the Waukesha County Health Council monitors and reports health data to the community. The council's goal is to make the community aware of health issues that confront its citizens and encourage the public to take personal responsibility for their health.

Grades were assigned based on the experience of an indicator over time, how the indicator compares to the State of Wisconsin's five-year average and how it compares to the Healthy People 2010 national goals.

Both primary and secondary research data were utilized in the report card. Primary research included childhood immunization data captured by Waukesha County Public Health Division's immunization program and results from the 2006 Waukesha County Community Health Survey. Secondary data was obtained from the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health and Family Services, and represents data in most instances through the 2006 calendar year.

The full report is available at www.waukeshacounty.gov/2009healthreportcard

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